

DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 320 610

IR 053 225

AUTHOR Lewis, Laurie; Farris, Elizabeth
TITLE Services and Resources for Children in Public Libraries, 1988-1989. Contractor Report. Survey Report.
INSTITUTION Westat, Inc., Rockville, MD.
SPONS AGENCY National Center for Education Statistics (ED), Washington, DC.
REPORT NO NCES-90-098
PUB DATE Mar 90
NOTE 42p.; Data Series FRSS-36.
AVAILABLE FROM Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, DC 20402.
PUB TYPE Reports - Research/Technical (143) -- Tests/Evaluation Instruments (160)

EDRS PRICE MF01/PC02 Plus Postage.
DESCRIPTORS *Childrens Libraries; *Library Circulation; *Library Facilities; *Library Services; Library Surveys; National Surveys; *Public Libraries; Questionnaires; Use Studies
IDENTIFIERS *Childrens Librarians

ABSTRACT

This report presents the findings of the first national survey of public libraries on their services and resources available to children. Questionnaires were mailed to a national probability sample of 846 public libraries, nonrespondents were contacted by telephone, and the final response rate was 97%. Survey items included the availability of library resources and services to children, the usage of library services by children, the number of group programs at the library for children and child care-givers, the amount of library cooperation with schools and with preschools or day care centers, and the number and educational level of public service and children's librarians. Survey findings are presented by the following characteristics of library buildings: (1) the number of library users per week (a measure of library size); (2) type of library (main without branches, main with branches, and branch); (3) availability of a children's librarian; (4) number of hours open to the public per week (another measure of library size); (5) percentage of the library's book budget used for children's books; and (6) percentage of the total circulation that is made up of children's materials. Findings in the text focus on the number of library patrons per week and type of library. The other data are presented in nine tables. The survey instrument is included. (GL)

* Reproductions supplied by EDRS are the best that can be made *
* from the original document. *

IR

NATIONAL CENTER FOR EDUCATION STATISTICS

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Office of Educational Research and Improvement
EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES INFORMATION
CENTER (ERIC)

* This document has been reproduced as
received from the person or organization
originating it.

□ Minor changes have been made to improve
reproduction quality.

• Points of view or opinions stated in this docu-
ment do not necessarily represent official
OERI position or policy.

Survey Report

March 1990

Services and Resources for Children in Public Libraries, 1988-89

Contractor Report

ED320610

IR053225

Data Series:
FRSS-36

U.S. Department of Education
Office of Educational Research and Improvement

NCES 90-098

NATIONAL CENTER FOR EDUCATION STATISTICS

Survey Report

March 1990

**Services and Resources
for Children in
Public Libraries,
1988-89**

Contractor Report

Laurie Lewis
Elizabeth Farris
Westat, Inc.

Data Series:
FRSS-36

**U.S. Department of Education
Office of Educational Research and Improvement**

NCES 90-098

U.S. Department of Education

Lauro F. Cavazos

Secretary

Office of Educational Research and Improvement

Christopher T. Cross

Assistant Secretary

National Center for Education Statistics

Emerson J. Elliott

Acting Commissioner

Information Services

Sharon K. Horn

Director

National Center for Education Statistics

"The purpose of the Center shall be to collect, and analyze, and disseminate statistics and other data related to education in the United States and in other nations."—Section 406(b) of the General Education Provisions Act, as amended (20 U.S.C. 1221e-1).

March 1990

Contact:

Betsy Faupel

(202) 357-6744

Highlights

- Thirty-seven percent of public library users in fall 1988 were children 14 years old and under (8th graders and below).
- Among public libraries that had a service or resource available for use or circulation, access to children ranged as follows:
 - Access by children to the service or resource was rarely restricted for foreign language materials, interlibrary loan services, and audio recordings. Between 86 and 92 percent of libraries allowed all children to use these resources and services; 5 percent or less denied use to any children.
 - Libraries were somewhat more restrictive about books in the adult collection; 71 percent of libraries allowed all children access to these books, and only 4 percent of libraries did not allow any children to use these books.
 - Access to personal computers and computer software was more restricted, with only about half (56 percent) of libraries allowing all children to use these resources and services, and 12 percent denying access to all children.
 - "Videocassettes and films" was the only service that was frequently not available to any children. These items were available to all children in only 39 percent of libraries, and to no children in 44 percent of libraries.
- The services for which public libraries most often reported moderate or heavy use by children during 1988-89 were summer reading programs (89 percent), story hours (78 percent), and readers advisory service (72 percent).
- Public libraries offered an average of 9 group programs at the library for infants through 2-year-olds during 1988-89. Examples of group programs are story hours, puppet shows, and booktalks. Libraries offered an average of 43 group programs at the library for 3- through 5-year-olds, an average of 25 group programs for school-age children, and an average of 5 group programs at the library for unspecified or combined ages of children.
- Most public libraries (83 percent) cooperated in 1988-89 with schools enrolling children 14 years old and under; 62 percent of libraries cooperated with preschools or day care centers. Examples of cooperation are librarian visits to schools for booktalks, class visits to the library for tours or booktalks, and formal scheduled meetings between library and school staff. Libraries cooperated with schools enrolling children 14 years old and under an average of 24 times during 1988-89; they cooperated with preschools or day care centers an average of 14 times.

- The assistance of a children's coordinator or consultant was available to 67 percent of public libraries.
- Over half (58 percent) of public libraries did not have any children's librarians (i.e., a librarian whose primary job is serving children) on staff; 34 percent of libraries had only one children's librarian, and 8 percent had two or more children's librarians on staff.
- Children's librarians were most commonly found in public libraries with many library users per week and in main libraries with branches. Over three-quarters (79 percent) of libraries that serve 1,000 or more users per week had a children's librarian on staff, compared with 42 percent of libraries that serve 200-999 users per week, and only 11 percent of libraries serving less than 200 users per week. About three-quarters (73 percent) of main libraries with branches had a children's librarian on staff, compared with 39 percent of main libraries without branches and branch libraries.
- Overall, about a third (36 percent) of public service librarians had a Master of Library Science (MLS) degree; about half (49 percent) of all children's librarians had an MLS degree. While a larger proportion of children's librarians than all public service librarians had an MLS degree, only 42 percent of libraries had a children's librarian, while 99 percent had one or more public service librarians. In those libraries with a children's librarian on staff, approximately the same proportion of public service and children's librarians had an MLS degree.

Table of Contents

	Page
Highlights.....	iii
Background	1
Characteristics of Libraries	2
Public Service Librarians	6
Children's Librarians.....	7
Children's Coordinators or Consultants	9
Library Use by Children	10
Availability and Use of Services	10
Group Programs at the Library	12
Cooperation with Schools and Preschools or Day Care Centers	14
Survey Methodology and Data Reliability.....	16
Tables	20
Survey Form.....	32

List of Figures

	Page
1 Relationship between library type and number of library patrons per week: United States, spring 1989.....	3
2 Relationship between number of library patrons per week and hours open per week: United States, spring 1989.....	4
3 Relationship between library type and number of hours open per week: United States, spring 1989.....	4
4 Relationship between percent of total circulation that is children's materials and percent of book budget used for children's books: United States, spring 1989.....	5
5 Percentage of libraries with and without the presence of a children's librarian, by number of library patrons per week: United States, spring 1989.....	7
6 Percentage of libraries with and without the presence of a children's librarian, by library type: United States, spring 1989.....	8
7 Availability and use of various public library services in 1988-89 by children 14 years old and under: United States, spring 1989.....	11
8 Percentage of libraries with various services accessible to children in 1988-89: United States, spring 1989.....	12
9 Percentage of libraries offering group programs at the library in 1988-89, by number of library patrons per week: United States, spring 1989.....	13
10 Percentage of libraries offering group programs at the library in 1988-89, by library type: United States, spring 1989.....	13
11 Percentage of libraries cooperating with schools and preschools or day care centers in 1988-89, by number of library patrons per week: United States, spring 1989.....	15
12 Percentage of libraries cooperating with schools and preschools or day care centers in 1988-89, by library type: United States, spring 1989.....	15

List of Tables

	Page
1 Percentage of public service and children's librarians with each level of education, by library characteristic: United States, spring 1989	20
2 Percentage of public libraries that have the assistance of a children's coordinator or consultant available, and the source of this assistance, by library characteristic: United States, spring 1989	21
3 Percentage of public library users that are 14 years old and under in a typical week during fall 1988, by library characteristic: United States, spring 1989	22
4 Percentage of public libraries reporting moderate or heavy use of the following library services during the last 12 months by children 14 years old and under, by library characteristic: United States, spring 1989	23
5 Percentage of libraries that have various resources and services available at all for use or circulation, and the percentage of those libraries with the service accessible to children: United States, spring 1989	24
6 Mean number of group programs at the library during the last 12 months for various age groups, by library characteristic: United States, spring 1989	25
7 Mean number of cooperative activities during the last 12 months with schools, and with preschools or day care centers enrolling any children 14 years old and under, by library characteristic: United States, spring 1989	26
8 Selected standard errors, by library characteristic	27
9 Universe size and number of respondents to the survey of children's services in public libraries, by library characteristic: United States, spring 1989	31

Background

This report presents the findings of the first national survey of public libraries on the services and resources available to children. As part of its mission to collect and report education data, the National Center for Education Statistics has occasionally conducted surveys of public libraries. These previous surveys, however, were not designed to provide statistics for children's services in libraries. This survey was requested by the Office of Library Programs in the Office of Educational Research and Improvement, U.S. Department of Education, to fill this void. The survey, "Survey on Library Services to Children in Public Libraries," was performed under contract by Westat, Inc., for the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), U.S. Department of Education, through its Fast Response Survey System (FRSS).

Data were collected for individual library buildings rather than for library systems. Survey items included the availability of library resources and services to children, the usage of library services by children, the number of group programs at the library for children and child care-givers, the amount of library cooperation with schools and with preschools or day care centers, and the number and educational level of public service and children's librarians.

Survey findings are presented for all library buildings, and by the following characteristics of library buildings: number of library users per week (a measure of library size, hereafter referred to as library patronage),¹ type of library (main without branches, main with branches, and branch), availability of a children's librarian, number of hours open to the public per week (another measure of library size), percentage of the library's book budget used for children's books,² and the percentage of the library's total circulation that is children's materials.³ Findings in the text focus on number of library patrons per week and type of library; the other data are presented in the tables for those readers who are interested in these characteristics.

¹Number of library users per week was obtained from the survey and used as a measure of size. Number of library users per week and percentage of library users 14 years old and under are based on door counts or similar counts of the number of persons entering the library rather than on circulation or other measures of library book usage. These figures are duplicated counts (i.e., a person who enters the library multiple times in a week is counted each time he or she enters the library), and include persons entering library buildings to attend activities or meetings and those using no library services.

²The percentage of the book budget that is used for children's books is based on data obtained from the survey and is used as a measure of relative resource expenditures on children's books compared with other book collections. Information was obtained about the book budget rather than the budget for all materials because the survey pretest indicated that information about the book budget was much more readily available than information about the budget for all materials.

³The percentage of the total circulation that is children's materials is based on data obtained from the survey and is used as a measure of relative activity in children's circulation compared with other areas of the library.

Characteristics of Libraries

Based on the findings, statements about associations between survey items and libraries with different characteristics can be made (e.g., libraries with children's librarians are more likely to report moderate or heavy use of story hours than libraries that do not have children's librarians). Statements about causal relationships, however, **cannot** be made (e.g., the presence of the children's librarian produces an increase in story hour use by children). FRSS surveys are not designed to show cause and effect relationships, only associations.

Characteristics of public libraries are often interrelated. For example, whether the library has a children's librarian is related to the number of library patrons per week and type of library. Estimates for libraries with a children's librarian often are similar to those of libraries with 1,000 or more patrons per week and those of main libraries with branches. Because of the relatively small size of the sample, it is difficult to separate the independent effects of each of these characteristics. In addition, variables covered in the survey, such as the presence or absence of a children's librarian, may be related to other factors not covered in the survey; these other factors may be the true causes of apparent differences regarding children's services and resources.

American public libraries are tremendously diverse, both in the services they offer and in the communities they serve. Patronage in the libraries in this nationally representative sample ranged from 7 patrons per week to 34,315 patrons per week, with a mean of 1,007 patrons per week.⁴ This mean number of library patrons per week does not give the whole picture, however; a look at the distribution indicates that during fall 1988--

- One-quarter (25 percent) of libraries served 100 or fewer patrons per week;
- Half (50 percent) served 300 or fewer patrons per week;
- Almost three-quarters (73 percent) served fewer than 1,000 patrons per week; and
- Only 1 percent served 10,000 or more patrons per week.⁵

The number of library patrons per week is strongly related to the type of library. Main libraries with branches had a mean of 3,370 patrons per week, while main libraries without branches had a mean

⁴Because the estimates are based on a statistical sample, there may be differences between the responses of the sample and those that would result from a survey of the entire population. Standard errors for selected key statistics are included in table 8.

⁵Many distributional statistics are not shown in figures or tables.

of only 713 patrons per week, and branch libraries had a mean of 944 patrons per week. Figure 1 shows the relationship between the categories of library type and number of library patrons per week. Of particular note is that 61 percent of main libraries with branches served 1,000 or more patrons per week.

This diversity in libraries is also reflected in the number of hours per week the library is open to serve the public. The hours open for libraries in this survey ranged from 2 to 84 per week in fall 1988, with a mean of 39 hours. About half (48 percent) of libraries were open fewer than 40 hours per week; about one-quarter (26 percent) were open 24 or fewer hours per week. The number of hours open per week is strongly related to the number of library patrons per week (figure 2) and the type of library (figure 3). Libraries that served 1,000 or more patrons per week and main libraries with branches were open the greatest number of hours per week.

Figure 1. -- Relationship between library type and number of library patrons per week: United States, spring 1989

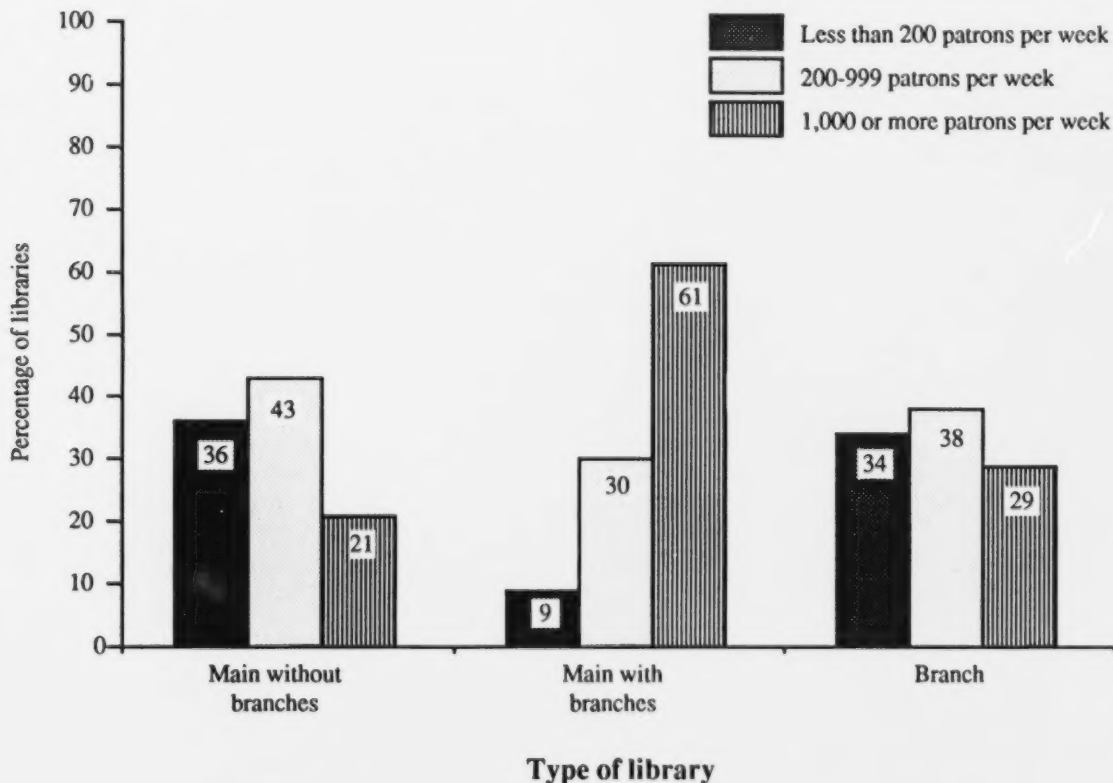


Figure 2. -- Relationship between number of library patrons per week and hours open per week: United States, spring 1989

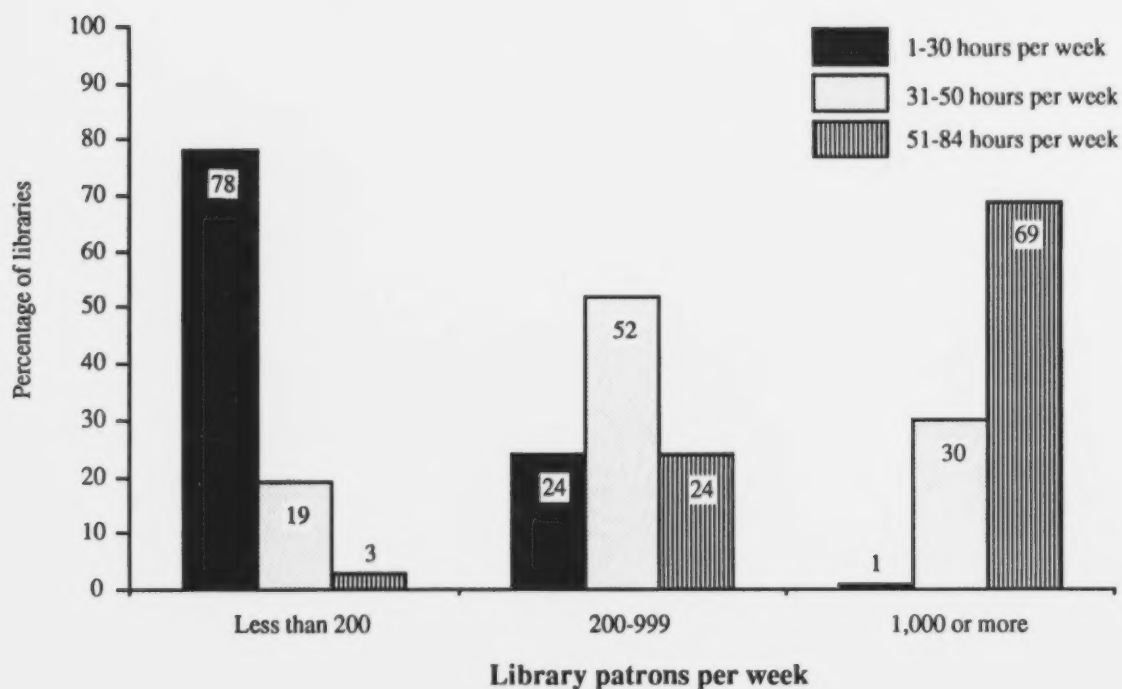
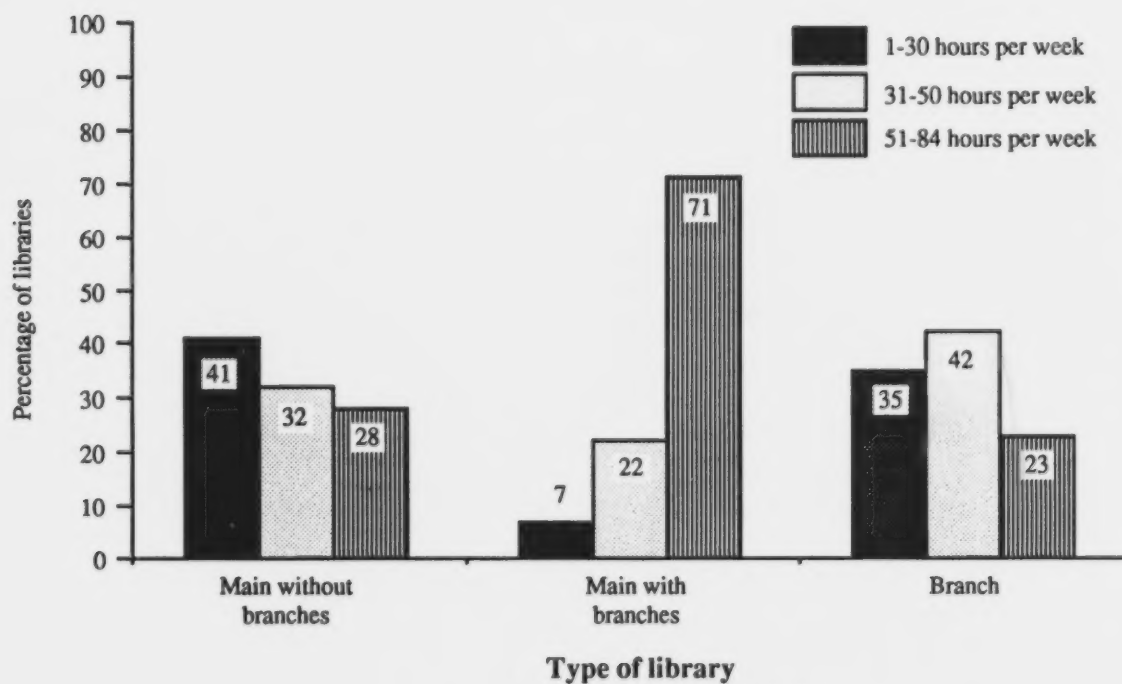
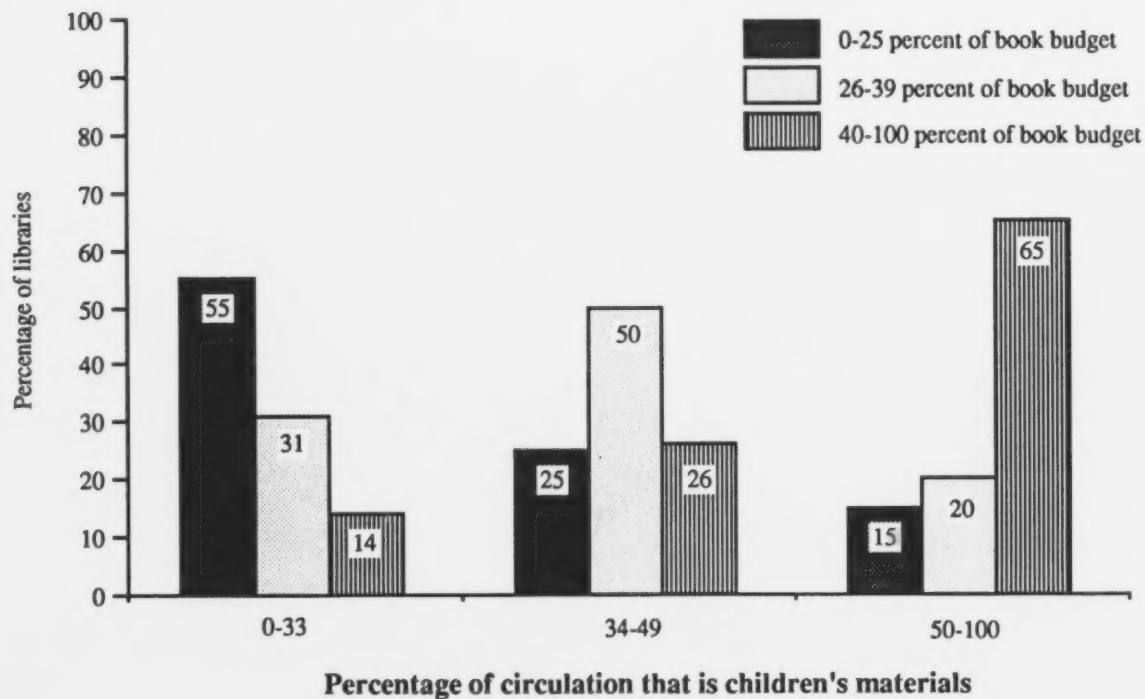


Figure 3. -- Relationship between library type and number of hours open per week: United States, spring 1989



The percentage of the library's total circulation that is children's materials ranged from 0 percent (at a library where users must be at least 14 years old) to 100 percent (at a public library located in a school), with a mean of 43 percent.⁶ The percentage of the library's book budget spent on children's books showed a similar pattern, ranging from 0 to 100 percent, with a mean of 35 percent.⁷ As shown in figure 4, these two variables are strongly related to each other; libraries that have more circulation in children's materials generally spend a greater percentage of their book budget on children's books.

Figure 4. -- Relationship between percent of total circulation that is children's materials and percent of book budget used for children's books: United States, spring 1989



⁶While at first glance these two libraries seem to be statistical outliers, examination of the frequency distribution indicates that the distribution is continuous. If these two libraries are removed from the data set, the distribution runs from 2 percent to 97 percent.

⁷If the two libraries mentioned above are removed from the data set, the distribution still runs from 0 to 100 percent. Zero percent responses occurred in several libraries because they had severe budget problems, and 100 percent responses occurred because some libraries only purchased children's books last year.

Public Service Librarians

The number of public service librarians⁸ on staff ranged from 0 to 72 in this survey, with a mean of 3.8 across all kinds of libraries (not shown in tables). Libraries that served more patrons per week and main libraries with branches had a greater number of public service librarians on staff. Libraries with heavy patronage (1,000 or more patrons per week) averaged 7.2 public service librarians, compared with 3.2 public service librarians in libraries with moderate patronage (200-999 patrons per week), and only 1.6 public service librarians in libraries with light patronage (less than 200 patrons per week). On average, main libraries with branches had 10.0 public service librarians on staff, compared with 3.5 public service librarians at main libraries without branches, and 2.9 at branch libraries.

A few libraries (1 percent) did not have any public service librarians on staff. Generally, these were very small branches that were staffed by clerks or volunteers. Over one-quarter (29 percent) of libraries employed only one public service librarian; 23 percent employed only two public service librarians. Over three-quarters (77 percent) of libraries had four or fewer public service librarians on staff. The small number of public service librarians on staff is in line with the small size of many libraries. As mentioned previously, 73 percent of libraries served less than 1,000 patrons per week, and 48 percent of libraries are open fewer than 40 hours per week.

Overall, about a third (36 percent) of public service librarians had a Master of Library Science (MLS) degree; a quarter (25 percent) had at least a 4-year college degree but not an MLS, and 39 percent had some other educational background (table 1). Education level varied a great deal with the number of library patrons per week and the type of library. Almost half (49 percent) of public service librarians in libraries with heavy patronage had an MLS degree, compared with about a quarter (28 percent) of librarians in libraries with moderate patronage, and only 6 percent of librarians in libraries with light patronage. Similarly, over half (58 percent) of public service librarians in main libraries with branches had an MLS degree, compared with 37 percent of librarians in branch libraries, and 25 percent of librarians in main libraries without branches.

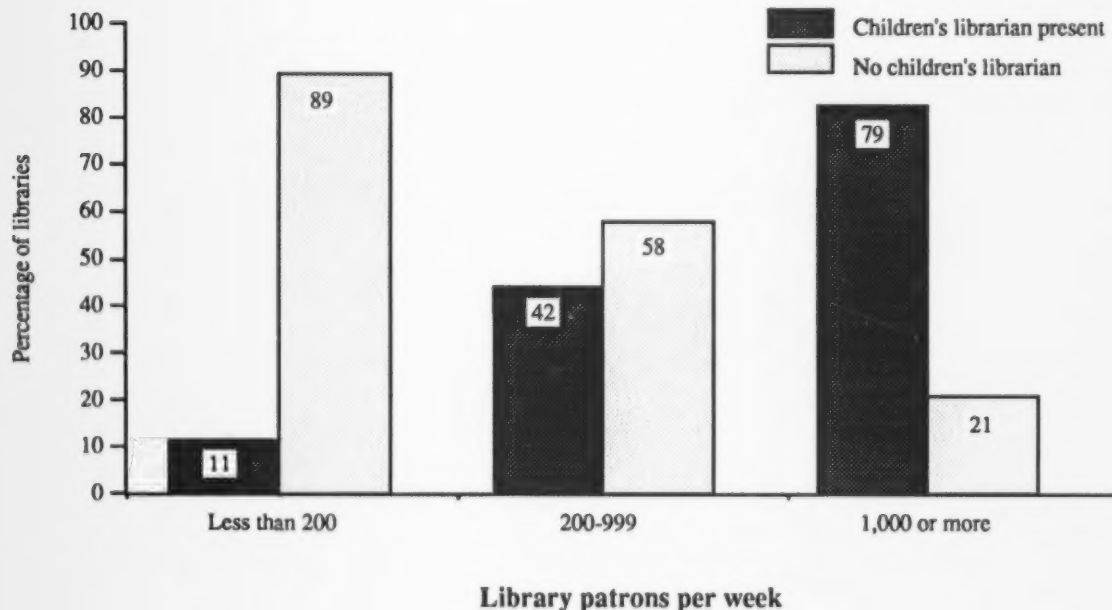
⁸A public service librarian was defined on the questionnaire as a librarian who works directly with the public. Respondents were instructed to count all paid staff who work as librarians, regardless of training, and to exclude librarians whose only job is technical or administrative. Respondents were also instructed to exclude volunteers or support staff such as clerical workers, book shelvees, or desk attendants.

Children's Librarians

Less than half (42 percent) of public libraries had a children's librarian on staff in 1988-89 (not shown in tables).⁹ Children's librarians were most commonly found in libraries with many library patrons per week (figure 5) and in main libraries with branches (figure 6). Over three-quarters (79 percent) of libraries with heavy patronage had a children's librarian on staff, compared with 42 percent of libraries with moderate patronage, and only 11 percent of libraries with light patronage. Children's librarians were also found more frequently in main libraries with branches (73 percent) than in either main libraries without branches (39 percent) or branch libraries (39 percent).

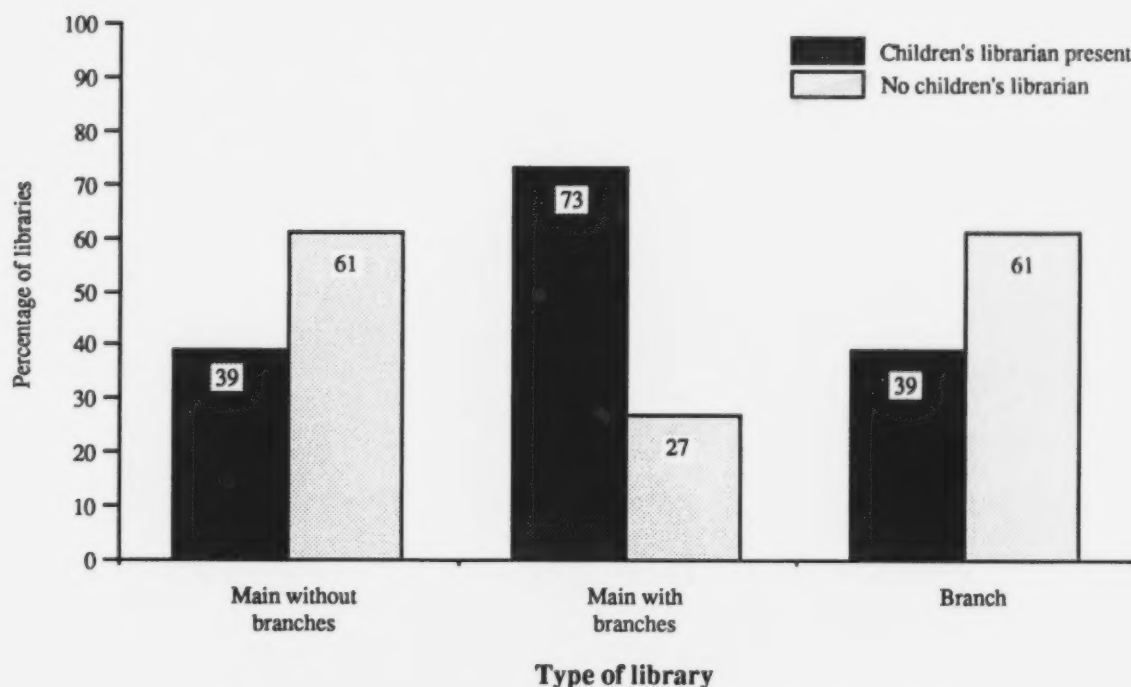
It is important to note that the presence of a children's librarian on staff was related to the total number of public service librarians on staff. Libraries that had a children's librarian averaged 6.3 public service librarians on staff; libraries without a children's librarian averaged only 2.0 public service librarians on staff (not shown in tables).

Figure 5. -- Percentage of libraries with and without the presence of a children's librarian, by number of library patrons per week: United States, spring 1989



⁹ This 42 percent is based on libraries that had any paid public service librarians on staff; 1 percent of libraries did not have any paid public service librarians. A children's librarian was defined as someone whose primary job is serving children.

Figure 6. -- Percentage of libraries with and without the presence of a children's librarian, by library type: United States, spring 1989



The number of children's librarians on staff ranged from 0 to 14 in this survey, with a mean of 0.6 across all kinds of libraries (not shown in tables). Over half (58 percent) of libraries did not have any children's librarians on staff; about one-third (34 percent) had only one children's librarian, and 8 percent had 2 or more children's librarians on staff (not shown in tables). Main libraries with branches averaged the largest number of children's librarians (1.6), compared with an average of only 0.5 children's librarians at main libraries without branches and branch libraries. Similarly, libraries with heavy patronage averaged 1.2 children's librarians, compared with an average of only 0.5 at libraries with moderate patronage, and only 0.1 at libraries with light patronage.

Overall, children's librarians represented 15 percent of public service librarians (not shown in tables). There was little variation in this percentage by library type or patronage. In the 42 percent of libraries that had a children's librarian on staff, about one-fifth (22 percent) of the public service librarians were children's librarians (not shown in tables).

About half (49 percent) of all children's librarians had a Master of Library Science (MLS) degree (table 1). About one-third (32 percent) of children's librarians had at least a 4-year college degree but not an MLS, and 19 percent had some other educational background. As with the education of public service librarians discussed previously, level of education varied with patronage and

Children's Coordinators or Consultants

library type. Over half (58 percent) of children's librarians in libraries with heavy patronage had an MLS degree, compared with 38 percent of children's librarians in libraries with moderate patronage, and only 11 percent in libraries with light patronage. In main libraries with branches and in branch libraries, 59 percent of children's librarians had an MLS degree, whereas in main libraries without branches only 36 percent of children's librarians did.

While a larger proportion of children's librarians than all public service librarians had an MLS degree, it is important to remember when comparing the educational level of public service librarians with the educational level of children's librarians that only 42 percent of libraries had a children's librarian. Thus, the percentages for the various types of education represent public service librarians in 99 percent of libraries (1 percent of libraries did not have any public service librarians), while the percentages for children's librarians represent only 42 percent of libraries. In those libraries with a children's librarian on staff, approximately the same proportion of public service and children's librarians had an MLS degree (table 1).

Assistance of a children's coordinator or consultant was available to 67 percent of all libraries (table 2). These coordinators were provided by local system headquarters (54 percent), regional system headquarters (43 percent), and State library agencies (41 percent).¹⁰

The assistance of a coordinator was available from local system headquarters more often for branch libraries than main libraries. Three-quarters (76 percent) of branch libraries had coordinators available from this source, compared with 43 percent of main libraries with branches and 33 percent of main libraries without branches. Libraries with heavy patronage had assistance available from this source more often than libraries with light patronage (63 percent versus 44 percent).

Regional system headquarters provided assistance most often for main libraries without branches and libraries with light patronage. About half (54 percent) of main libraries without branches had coordinator assistance available from regional headquarters, while 29 percent of main libraries with branches and 35 percent of branch libraries had coordinators available from this source. About half (51 percent) of libraries with light patronage had coordinator assistance from regional headquarters available to them, compared with 31 percent of libraries with heavy patronage.

¹⁰ Percentages add to more than 100 because the assistance of a children's coordinator or consultant may be available from multiple sources.

Library Use by Children

Librarians reported that 37 percent of library users in fall 1988 were children 14 years old and under (8th graders and below).¹¹ This proportion showed a small amount of variation across library characteristics (table 3). Libraries with heavy patronage had a smaller proportion (36 percent) of library users 14 years old and under than did either libraries with moderate patronage (42 percent) or libraries with light patronage (44 percent). Main libraries with branches had a smaller proportion (32 percent) of library users 14 years old and under than did either main libraries without branches (38 percent) or branch libraries (40 percent).

Librarians were asked how their libraries define children. The most frequent response was 14 years old and under, or 8th grade and below (43 percent; not shown in tables). The next most common response was 12 years old and under, or 6th grade and below (30 percent), followed by 13 years old and under, or 7th grade and below (11 percent). Other ages and grades were mentioned much less frequently.

Availability and Use of Services

Most libraries offered the following services in 1988-89 for children 14 years old and under (not shown in tables):

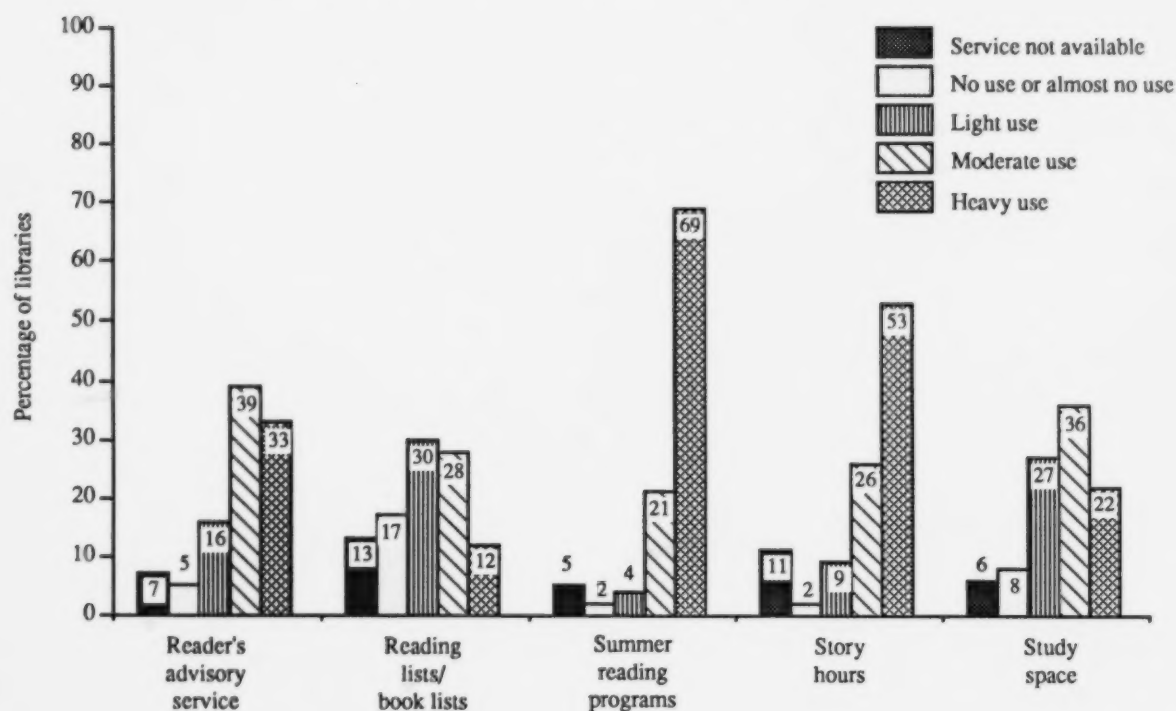
- Summer reading programs (95 percent);
- Study space (94 percent);
- Readers advisory service (93 percent);
- Story hours (89 percent); and
- Reading lists or booklists (87 percent).

In addition to the availability of services, librarians were asked about the use of each service by children during 1988-89, on a scale ranging from "no usage or almost no usage" to "heavy usage." Heavy use was particularly high for summer reading programs (69 percent) and story hours (53 percent; figure 7). The services for which libraries most often reported moderate or heavy use by children were summer reading programs (89 percent), story hours (78 percent), and readers' advisory service (72 percent; table 4).¹²

¹¹The U.S. Census Bureau reports that children 14 years old and under were 22 percent of the U.S. population on July 1, 1987, the most recent date for which figures are available (U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, *Current Population Reports*, Series P-25, No. 1022).

¹²Percentages are based on all libraries including those that reported that services were not available.

Figure 7.-- Availability and use of various public library services in 1988-89 by children 14 years old and under: United States, spring 1989

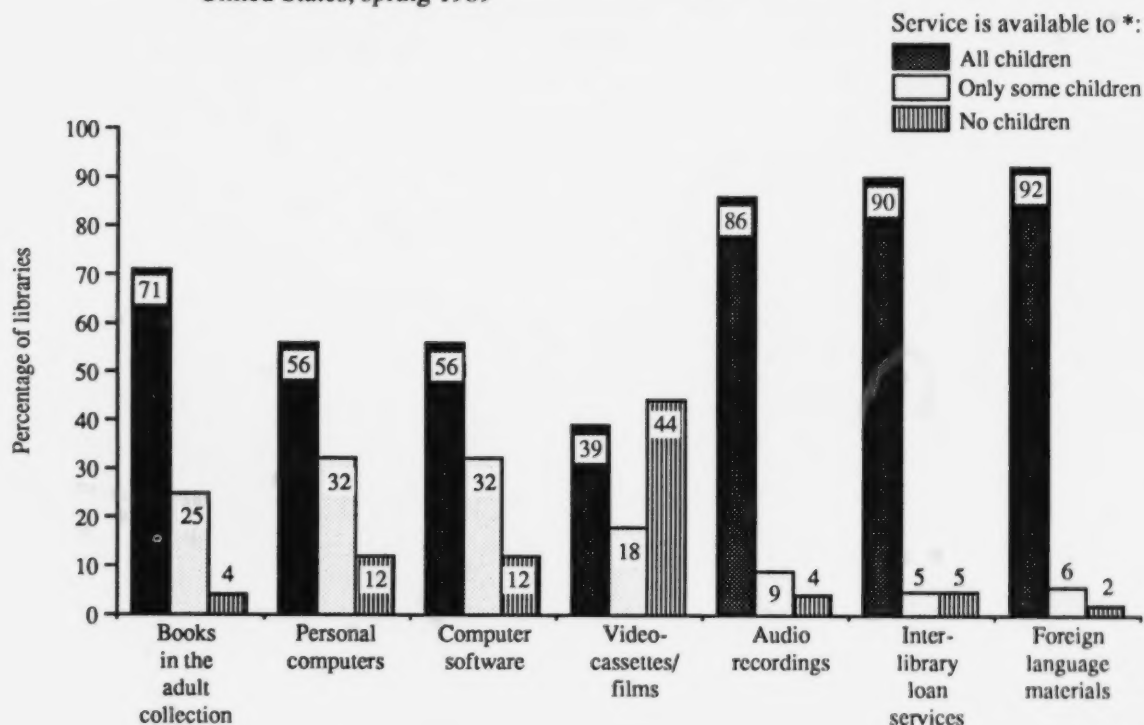


Reported use of library services during 1988-89 varied by library patronage. Libraries with heavy patronage were more likely than libraries with light patronage to report moderate or heavy use of all listed services. Main libraries with branches reported greater use of study space and reading lists or booklists than main libraries without branches.

In 1988-89, almost all libraries (97 percent) provided interlibrary loan services for persons who used their library (table 5). About three-quarters of libraries provided audio recordings (79 percent) and foreign language materials (75 percent). Approximately two-thirds (65 percent) of libraries offered videocassettes or films, while only about a quarter provided personal computers (28 percent) and computer software (26 percent).

Among libraries that had the service or resource available at all for use or circulation, access by children to the service or resource was rarely restricted for foreign language materials, interlibrary loan services, and audio recordings (figure 8). Between 86 and 92 percent of libraries allowed all children to use these resources and services; 5 to 9 percent restricted use to only some children; and 5 percent or less denied use to any children. Libraries were somewhat more restrictive about books in the adult collection; 71 percent of libraries allowed all children access to these books. Access to

Figure 8.-- Percentage of libraries with various services accessible to children in 1988-89:
United States, spring 1989



* Based on libraries that had the resource or service available at all for use or circulation.

personal computers and computer software was more restricted, with only about half (56 percent) of libraries allowing all children to use these resources and services. The only service that was frequently not available to any children was videocassettes and films; 44 percent of libraries did not allow any children to use these items, and only 39 percent allowed use by all children. Several librarians commented that videocassettes were too expensive to be entrusted to children, and that all videocassettes, including children's materials, must be checked out by an adult.

Group Programs at the Library

Libraries frequently offer programs at the library designed to introduce children to the library and to reading. Examples of such programs are story hours, puppet shows, and booktalks. Most libraries offered group programs in 1988-89 for 3-year-olds through 5-year-olds (83 percent) and school-age children (82 percent), while only 29 percent offered group programs for infants through 2-year-olds, and only 22 percent offered group programs for unspecified or combined ages of children (not shown in tables). The percentages of libraries offering group programs, broken out by library patronage and type, are shown in figures 9 and 10.

Most program emphasis at libraries was aimed at preschool children. On average, libraries offered 43 group programs at the library for 3-year-olds through 5-year-olds during 1988-89 (table

Figure 9.-- Percentage of libraries offering group programs at the library in 1988-89, by number of library patrons per week: United States, spring 1989

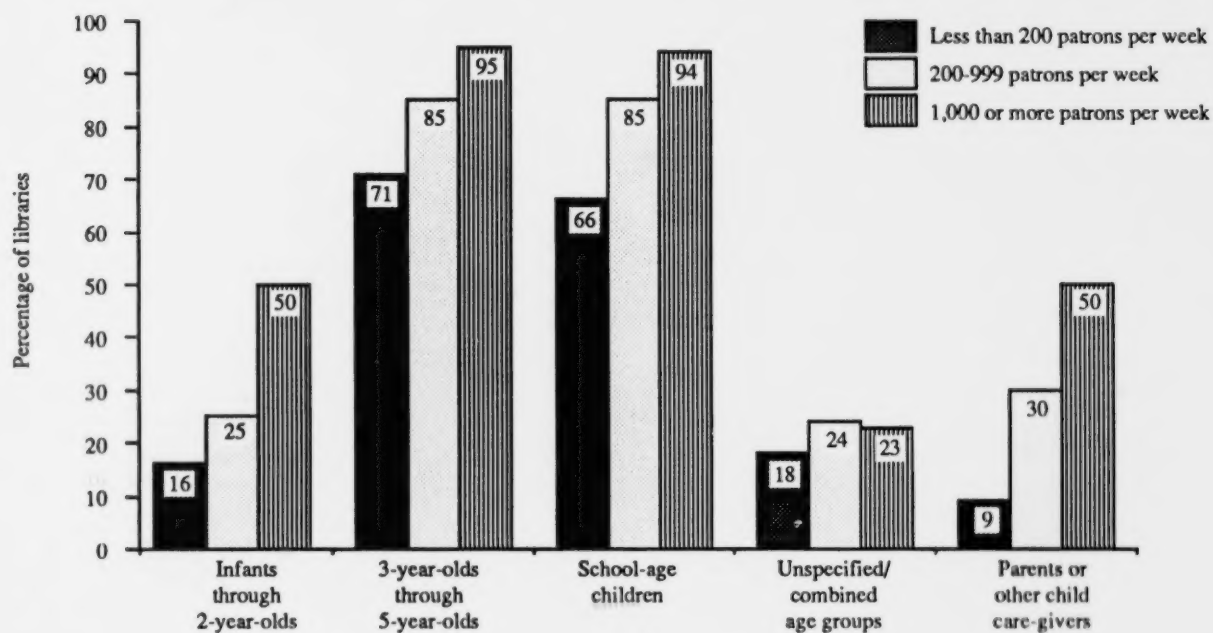
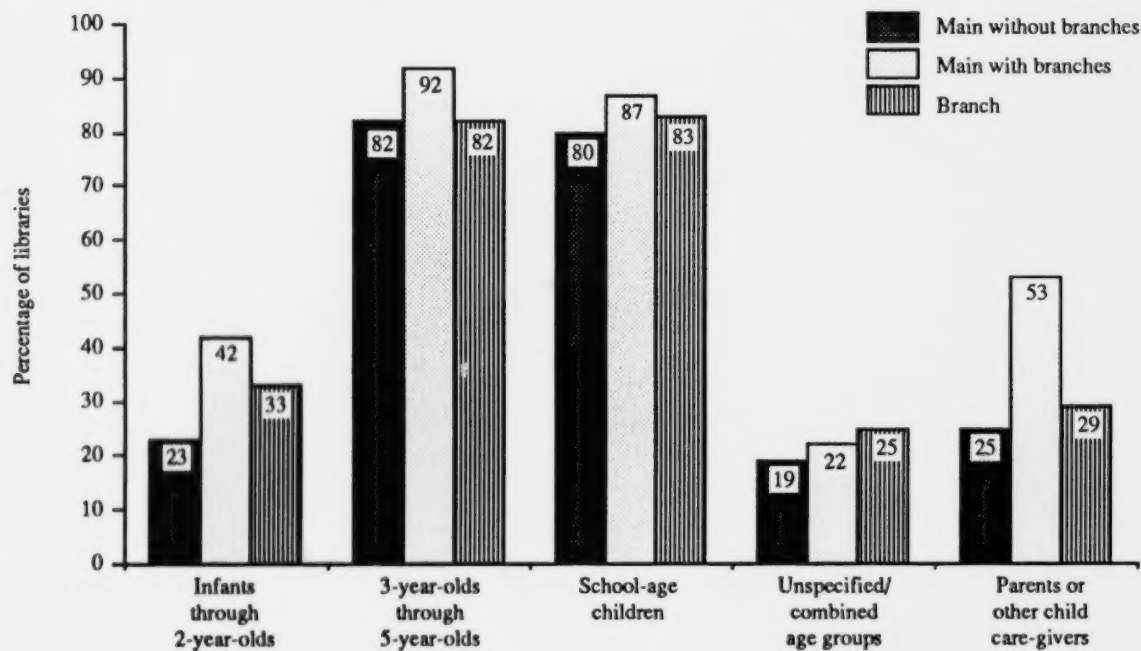


Figure 10.-- Percentage of libraries offering group programs at the library in 1988-89, by library type: United States, spring 1989



Cooperation with Schools and Preschools or Day Care Centers

6).¹³ An average of 25 group programs were offered at the library for school-age children; group programs for infants through 2-year-olds averaged 9 offerings, and group programs for unspecified or combined ages of children averaged 5 offerings.

Library patronage and the number of group programs offered are strongly related to each other. In libraries with heavier patronage, the number of group programs offered is larger than in libraries with lighter patronage. Library type is also related to the number of group programs offered. Main libraries with branches offered more group programs at the library for preschoolers and school-age children than did either main libraries without branches or branch libraries.

Libraries also occasionally offer group programs at the library for parents or other child care-givers on topics related to children. In 1988-89, 29 percent of libraries offered these group programs (not shown in tables). Libraries averaged only 2 such programs during 1988-89 (table 6). Even the libraries with heavy patronage offered these programs infrequently--libraries serving 1,000 or more patrons per week offered an average of 5 programs during 1988-89.

One of the main outreach programs which libraries undertake is cooperative activities with schools and preschools or day care centers in their area. Examples of cooperation are librarian visits to schools for booktalks, class visits to the library for tours or booktalks, and formal scheduled meetings between library and school staff. Most libraries (83 percent) cooperated in 1988-89 with schools enrolling children 14 years old and under; 62 percent of libraries cooperated with preschools or day care centers (not shown in tables). The percentages of libraries undertaking cooperative activities with schools and preschools or day care centers, broken out by library patronage and type, are shown in figures 11 and 12.

Libraries cooperated with schools an average of 24 times during 1988-89 and cooperated with preschools or day care centers an average of 14 times (table 7).¹⁴ Library patronage and type of library are both related to the number of cooperative activities. Libraries with heavy patronage averaged a greater number of cooperative activities with schools and preschools or day care centers than did either libraries with moderate patronage or light patronage. Main libraries with branches averaged more cooperative activities with both age groups than did either main libraries without branches or branch libraries.

¹³ Averages are based on all libraries, including those that reported that they did not offer group programs at the library for that age group.

¹⁴ Averages are based on all libraries, including those that reported that they did not have any cooperative activities with schools or with preschools or day care centers.

Figure 11.-- Percentage of libraries cooperating with schools and preschools or day care centers in 1988-89, by number of library patrons per week: United States, spring 1989

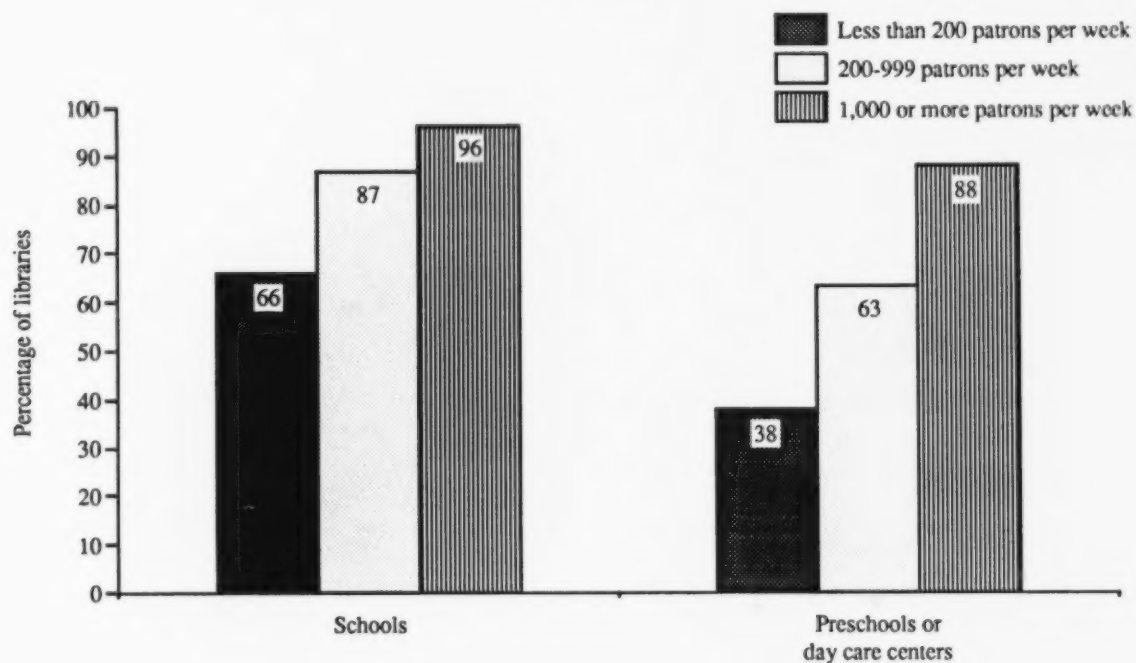
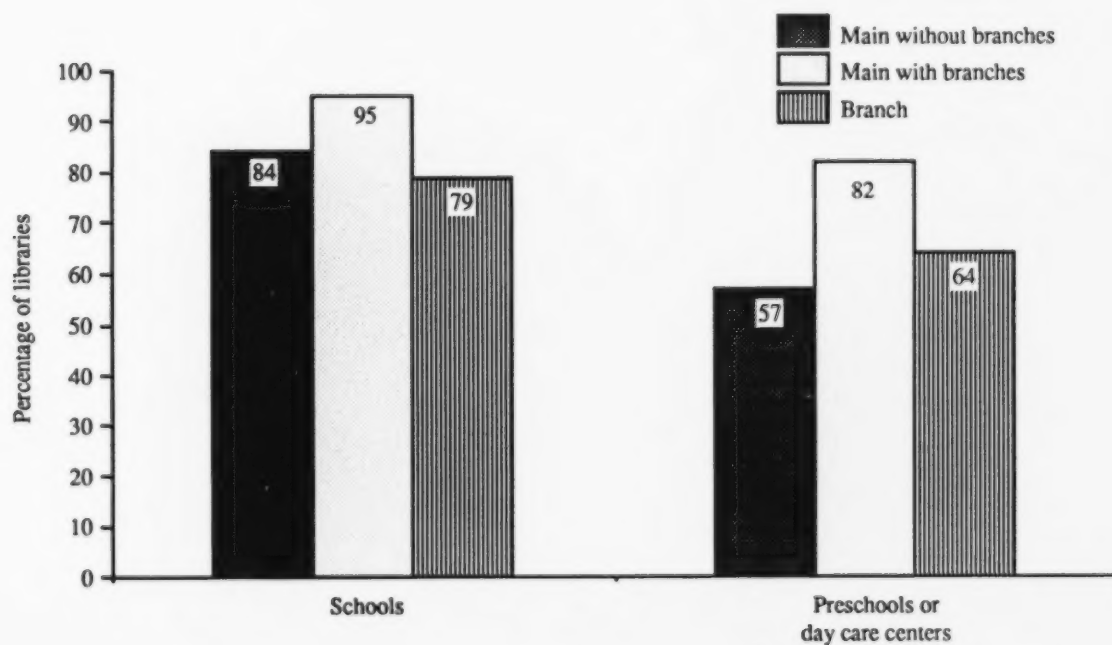


Figure 12.-- Percentage of libraries cooperating with schools and preschools or day care centers in 1988-89, by library type: United States, spring 1989



Survey Methodology and Data Reliability

In late March 1989, questionnaires (see attachment) were mailed to a national probability sample of 846 public libraries from a universe of approximately 8,500 main libraries and 5,600 branch libraries. The sample included 345 main libraries without branches, 195 main libraries with branches, and 306 branch libraries. The data were collected for individual library buildings rather than for library systems. State libraries and cooperative systems were excluded from the survey. Telephone followup of nonrespondents was initiated in mid-April; data collection was completed in May with a response rate of 97 percent. The sampling frame used for the survey was the universe file of U.S. public libraries purchased from Market Data Retrieval. During data collection, it was discovered that some branch libraries were not represented on the frame, indicating some undercoverage in the Market Data Retrieval frame. The extent of undercoverage is not known, since this survey was not designed to estimate undercoverage.

The sample was allocated proportionally to main libraries and branches. An equiprobability sample of main libraries was drawn from each size of population stratum (less than 10,000; 10,000-99,999; 100,000 or more). Then, Keyfitz procedures¹⁵ were used to draw the sample of branches from each size stratum to ensure that the sample of branch libraries overlapped minimally with branch libraries in library systems represented by main libraries selected into the sample. This procedure maximized the number of library systems represented in the sample. This is the same sample that was used in FRSS #28, *Services and Resources for Young Adults in Public Libraries*, released by NCES in July 1988. The survey data were weighted to reflect these sampling rates (probability of selection) and were adjusted for nonresponse. Numbers in the tables and text have been rounded. Percentages and averages have been calculated based on the actual estimates rather than the rounded values.

The standard error is a measure of the variability due to sampling when estimating a statistic. It indicates how much variance there is in the population of possible estimates of a parameter for a given size sample. Standard errors can be used as a measure of the precision expected from a particular sample. If all possible samples were surveyed under similar conditions, intervals of 1.96 standard errors below to 1.96 standard errors above a particular statistic would include the true population parameter being estimated in about 95 percent of the samples. This is a 95 percent confidence interval. For example, for the percentage of public libraries with the assistance of a children's coordinator or consultant available, the

¹⁵For information about the Keyfitz procedure, see the following articles: J. Michael Brick, David Morganstein, and Charles Wolters, "Additional Uses for Keyfitz Selection," *Proceedings of the Section on Survey Research Methods of the American Statistical Association*, (1987): 787-791; and Nathan Keyfitz, "Sampling with Probabilities Proportionate to Size: Adjustment for Changes in Probabilities," *Journal of the American Statistical Association*, vol. 46 (1951): 105-109.

estimate for all libraries is 67.5 and the standard error is 1.4. The 95 percent confidence interval for this statistic extends from 67.5 - (1.4 times 1.96) to 67.5 + (1.4 times 1.96) or from 64.8 to 70.2.

Estimates of standard errors were computed using a balanced half sampling technique known as balanced repeated replications. Estimated standard errors for some key variables are included in table 8. Standard errors for statistics not included in this table can be obtained upon request.

Relationships between variables with 2 or more levels have been tested using chi-square tests at the .05 level of significance, adjusted for average design effect. If the overall chi-square test was significant, it was followed up with tests using a Bonferroni *t* statistic, which maintained an overall 95 percent confidence level or better.

Some of the variables used to classify libraries were correlated (such as number of library users per week and library type). However, the sample size of this survey limits our ability to understand the full multivariate nature of the responses by correlated classification variables.

Survey estimates are also subject to errors of reporting and errors made in the collection of the data. These errors, called nonsampling errors, can sometimes bias the data. While general sampling theory can be used to determine how to estimate the sampling variability of a statistic, nonsampling errors are not easy to measure and usually require that an experiment be conducted as part of the data collection procedures or the use of data external to the study.

Nonsampling errors may include such things as differences in the respondents' interpretation of the meaning of the questions, differences related to the particular time the survey was conducted, or errors in data preparation. During the design of the survey and survey pretest, an effort was made to check for consistency of interpretation of questions and to eliminate ambiguous items. The questionnaire was pretested with respondents like those who completed the survey, and the questionnaire and instructions were extensively reviewed by NCES and by a panel of librarians with specialties in children's services. Manual and machine editing of the questionnaires was conducted to check the data for accuracy and consistency. Cases with missing or inconsistent items were noted and respondents recontacted by telephone; data were keyed with 100 percent verification.

Data are presented for all libraries and by the following library characteristics: number of library users per typical week, library type, availability of a children's librarian, number of hours open to the public per week, percentage of the library's book budget used for children's books, and the percentage of the library's total circulation that is children's materials. Classifications for number of

library users per typical week are: light patronage--less than 200 patrons; moderate patronage--200-999 patrons; and heavy patronage--1,000 or more patrons. Type classifications are as follows: main libraries without branches are those libraries which represent a single-library system; main libraries with branches are lending libraries which serve as system headquarters for a multi-library system or that are located at the same address as the administrative office of an all-branch system (where no one library in the system has been designated as headquarters); and branch libraries are those libraries belonging to, but not headquarters for, a multi-library system.

Classifications for number of hours open to the public per week are: 1-30; 31-50; and 51-84. The classifications used for percent of the budget used for children's books are: 0-25 percent; 26-39 percent; and 40-100 percent. Classifications for percent of total circulation that is children's materials are: 0-33 percent; 34-49 percent; and 50-100 percent. Data regarding number of library patrons per week, whether or not the library had a children's librarian, number of hours open to the public, percentage of the book budget used for children's books, and the percentage of the total circulation that is children's materials were obtained from the survey.

The survey was performed under contract with Westat, Inc., using the Fast Response Survey System (FRSS). Westat's Project Director was Elizabeth Farris, and the Survey Manager was Laurie Lewis. Jeffrey Williams was the NCES Project Officer. The data requester, who participated in the survey design and analyses, was Ray Fry, Senior Advisor for Library Programs, OERI. FRSS was designed to collect quickly, and with minimal burden on respondents, small quantities of data needed for education planning and policy.

The following consultants assisted with the planning of the survey: Jane Botham, Children's Services Coordinator, Milwaukee Public Library; Barbara Immroth, Associate Professor, Graduate School of Library and Information Science, University of Texas at Austin; Margaret Kimmel, Professor, School of Library and Information Science, University of Pittsburgh; Mary Jo Lynch, Director of the Office of Research, American Library Association; Susan Roman, Executive Director of the Association for Library Service to Children, American Library Association; and Mary Somerville, Coordinator of Children's Services, Broward County (Florida) Library.

The reviewers were Macknight Black, Mary Frase, Ray Fry, and Iris Silverman, U.S. Department of Education, and Elizabeth Hoke, former coordinator of children's services at Montgomery County (Maryland) public library.

For information about this survey or the Fast Response Survey System, contact Jeffrey Williams, Office of Educational Research and Improvement, National Center for Education Statistics, 555 New Jersey Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20208-5651, telephone (202) 357-6333.

Table 1.--Percentage of public service and children's librarians with each level of education, by library characteristic: United States, spring 1989

Library characteristic	Public service librarians ¹			Children's librarians ²		
	Master of Library Science degree	4-year college degree	Other educational background	Master of Library Science degree	4-year college degree	Other educational background
Total	36	25	39	49	32	19
Library patrons per week						
Less than 200	6	22	73	11	39	50
200-999	28	26	47	38	32	30
1,000 or more	49	26	25	58	32	10
Type of library						
Main without branches	25	26	49	36	33	31
Main with branches	58	22	20	59	32	9
Branch	37	25	37	59	31	10
Children's librarian						
Have	46	25	29	49	32	19
Do not have	12	26	62	--	--	--
Hours open per week						
1-30	7	24	69	13	44	42
31-50	25	27	47	41	26	33
51-84	48	24	28	55	33	11
Percent of book budget used for children's books						
0-25	43	24	33	60	29	10
26-39	37	28	35	45	38	17
40-100	24	25	52	39	28	34
Percent of total circulation that is children's materials						
0-33	44	21	35	57	29	14
34-49	36	28	36	47	36	17
50-100	24	27	49	40	31	29

¹ A public service librarian was defined on the questionnaire as a librarian who works directly with the public. Respondents were instructed to count all paid staff who work as librarians, regardless of training, and to exclude librarians whose only job is technical or administrative. Respondents were also instructed to exclude volunteers or support staff such as clerical workers, book shelveers, or desk attendants.

² A children's librarian was defined as someone whose primary job is serving children.

NOTE: Percentages may not add to 100 because of rounding.

It is important to remember when comparing the educational level of public service librarians to the educational level of children's librarians that only 42 percent of libraries had a children's librarian. Thus, the percents for the various types of education represent public service librarians in 99 percent of libraries (1 percent of libraries did not have any public service librarians), while the percents for children's librarians represent only 42 percent of libraries.

Table 2.--Percentage of public libraries that have the assistance of a children's coordinator or consultant available, and the source of this assistance, by library characteristic: United States, spring 1989

Library characteristic	Public libraries with the assistance of a children's coordinator/consultant available	Public libraries with assistance of a children's coordinator/consultant available from these sources ¹			
		Local system headquarters	Regional system headquarters	State library agencies	Other source ²
Total.....	67	54	43	41	6
Library patrons per week					
Less than 200	63	44	51	36	5
200-999	68	56	45	40	7
1,000 or more	72	63	31	49	6
Type of library					
Main without branches....	59	33	54	51	9
Main with branches.....	61	43	29	55	7
Branch.....	79	76	35	30	4
Children's librarian					
Have.....	70	60	32	40	6
Do not have.....	65	49	52	43	7
Hours open per week					
1-30.....	65	44	57	35	6
31-50.....	69	63	41	42	7
51-84.....	69	54	30	48	6
Percent of book budget used for children's books					
0-25.....	64	45	44	42	6
26-39.....	71	63	35	44	7
40-100.....	67	54	47	39	6
Percent of total circulation that is children's materials					
0-33.....	61	48	39	45	9
34-49.....	76	57	43	40	3
50-100.....	66	56	47	39	7

¹Based on libraries that reported having the assistance of a children's coordinator/consultant. Percentages add to more than 100 because libraries may have received assistance from multiple sources.

²These libraries reported the assistance of a children's coordinator/consultant from sources other than local or regional system headquarters, or State library agencies. Among the sources included in this category are universities, neighboring library system headquarters, school library services, and local government agencies.

Table 3.--Percentage of public library users that are 14 years old and under in a typical week during fall 1988, by library characteristic: United States, spring 1989

Library characteristic	Percentage of users 14 years old and under
Total	37
Library patrons per week	
Less than 200	44
200-999.....	42
1,000 or more.....	36
Type of library	
Main without branches.....	38
Main with branches.....	32
Branch	40
Children's librarian	
Have.....	36
Do not have.....	40
Hours open per week	
1-30.....	46
31-50.....	40
51-84.....	36
Percent of book budget used for children's books	
0-25.....	31
26-39.....	39
40-100.....	49
Percent of total circulation that is children's materials	
0-33.....	29
34-49.....	38
50-100.....	49

Table 4.--Percentage of public libraries reporting moderate or heavy use of the following library services during the last 12 months by children 14 years old and under, by library characteristic: United States, spring 1989

Library characteristic	Readers advisory service	Reading lists/booklists	Summer reading programs	Story hours	Study space
Total.....	72	40	89	78	59
Library patrons per week					
Less than 200	61	26	82	65	42
200-999.....	74	44	90	82	62
1,000 or more.....	84	52	97	90	73
Type of library					
Main without branches.....	70	35	88	79	55
Main with branches.....	88	55	93	88	76
Branch	73	45	90	76	60
Children's librarian					
Have.....	85	52	96	91	72
Do not have.....	64	32	85	69	48
Hours open per week					
1-30.....	60	30	80	67	43
31-50.....	73	41	91	76	64
51-84.....	87	52	99	95	71
Percent of book budget used for children's books					
0-25.....	71	42	85	70	58
26-39.....	79	44	94	87	62
40-100.....	69	36	89	78	57
Percent of total circulation that is children's materials					
0-33.....	71	39	83	72	58
34-49.....	77	45	96	85	62
50-100.....	70	37	90	78	57

NOTE: Percentages are based on all libraries including those that reported that services were not available.

Table 5.--Percentage of libraries that have various resources and services available at all for use or circulation, and the percentage of those libraries with the service accessible to children: United States, spring 1989

Resources and services	Service is available at all for use or circulation	Service is available to ¹		
		All children	Only some children	No children
(In percent of libraries) ²				
Books in the adult collection	--	71	25	4
Personal computers	28	56	32	12
Computer software	26	56	32	12
Videocassettes/films.....	65	39	18	44
Audio recordings.....	79	86	9	4
Interlibrary loan services.....	97	90	5	5
Foreign language materials.....	75	92	6	2

¹Based on libraries that had the resource or service available.

²Percentages may not add to 100 because of rounding.

Table 6.--Mean number of group programs at the library during the last 12 months for various age groups, by library characteristic: United States, spring 1989

Library characteristic	Infants through 2-year-olds	3-year-olds through 5-year-olds	School-age children	Unspecified or combined age groups	Parents or ¹ other child care-givers
Total	9	43	25	5	2
Library patrons per week					
Less than 200	2	16	11	3	(*)
200-999	7	40	28	5	2
1,000 or more	22	79	39	9	5
Type of library					
Main without branches	7	42	23	3	2
Main with branches	20	77	44	10	4
Branch	10	38	25	7	2
Children's librarian					
Have	16	72	42	7	4
Do not have	4	23	13	4	1
Hours open per week					
1-30	2	16	12	4	(*)
31-50	9	36	25	4	1
51-84	19	83	42	8	5
Percent of book budget used for children's books					
0-25	10	48	20	4	2
26-39	13	55	32	6	3
40-100	6	29	24	6	2
Percent of total circulation that is children's materials					
0-33	10	43	21	5	2
34-49	11	51	31	6	3
50-100	7	36	25	5	2

*Less than 0.5.

¹Group programs at the library for parents or other child care-givers on topics related to children.

NOTE: Averages are based on all libraries, including those that reported that they did not offer group programs at the library for that age group.

Table 7.--Mean number of cooperative activities during the last 12 months with schools, and with preschools or day care centers enrolling any children 14 years old and under, by library characteristic: United States, spring 1989

Library characteristic	Schools	Preschools or day care centers
Total	24	14
Library patrons per week		
Less than 200.....	11	5
200-999	18	10
1,000 or more	47	33
Type of library		
Main without branches	18	11
Main with branches	60	38
Branch.....	24	14
Children's librarian		
Have	36	26
Do not have	15	6
Hours open per week		
1-30	11	4
31-50	23	12
51-84	40	30
Percent of book budget used for children's books		
0-25	26	18
26-39	23	13
40-100	23	13
Percent of total circulation that is children's materials		
0-33	20	14
34-49	25	16
50-100	26	14

NOTE: Averages are based on all libraries, including those that reported that they did not have any cooperative activities with schools or with preschools or day care centers.

Table 8.--Selected standard errors, by library characteristic

Library characteristic	Percentage of public service librarians with an MLS		Percentage of children's librarians with an MLS	
	Estimate	Standard error	Estimate	Standard error
Total.....	36	1.2	49	2.7
Library patrons per week				
Less than 200	6	1.7	11	6.7
200-999.....	28	2.0	38	4.6
1,000 or more.....	49	2.1	58	2.9
Type of Library				
Main without branches....	25	1.7	36	3.8
Main with branches.....	58	2.6	59	3.9
Branch.....	37	2.6	59	4.1
Children's librarian				
Have.....	46	1.6	49	2.7
Do not have.....	12	1.2	—	—
Hours open per week				
1-30.....	7	1.2	13	4.6
31-50.....	25	1.6	41	5.0
51-84.....	48	1.9	55	3.1
Percent of book budget used for children's books				
0-25.....	43	2.0	60	5.0
26-39.....	37	2.6	45	4.2
40-100.....	24	2.2	39	5.3
Percent of total circulation that is children's materials				
0-33.....	44	2.4	57	3.9
34-49.....	36	2.1	47	3.5
50-100.....	24	2.2	40	6.2

Table 8.--Selected standard errors, by library characteristic--Continued

Library characteristic	Percentage of public libraries with the assistance of a children's coordinator/consultant available		Percentage of public library users that are 14 years old and under		Percentage of public libraries reporting moderate or heavy use of the reader's advisory service	
	Estimate	Standard error	Estimate	Standard error	Estimate	Standard error
Total.....	67	1.4	37	0.7	72	1.9
Library patrons per week						
Less than 200	63	3.2	44	1.7	61	4.1
200-999	68	2.9	42	1.3	74	3.1
1,000 or more	72	3.1	36	0.9	84	2.8
Type of library						
Main without branches....	59	2.3	38	1.2	70	3.7
Main with branches.....	61	6.3	32	1.8	88	4.3
Branch.....	79	2.4	40	1.1	73	2.5
Children's librarian						
Have.....	70	2.4	36	1.0	85	2.3
Do not have.....	65	2.2	40	1.5	64	2.8
Hours open per week						
1-30.....	65	3.1	46	2.1	60	4.1
31-50.....	69	3.3	40	1.5	73	3.3
51-84.....	69	3.6	36	1.0	87	2.2
Percent of book budget used for children's books						
0-25.....	64	3.5	31	1.1	71	2.6
26-39.....	71	3.5	39	0.9	79	3.1
40-100.....	67	2.9	49	1.5	69	3.8
Percent of total circulation that is children's materials						
0-33.....	61	3.5	29	1.0	71	3.3
34-49.....	76	2.5	38	0.9	77	2.9
50-100.....	66	2.6	49	1.8	70	3.3

Table 8.--Selected standard errors, by library characteristic--Continued

Library characteristic	Percentage of public libraries reporting moderate or heavy use of summer reading programs		Percentage of public libraries reporting moderate or heavy use of story hours		Mean number of group programs at the library for 3-year-olds through 5-year-olds	
	Estimate	Standard error	Estimate	Standard error	Estimate	Standard error
Total.....	89	1.3	78	1.6	43	1.1
Library patrons per week						
Less than 200	82	3.0	65	3.1	16	1.2
200-999.....	90	1.6	82	2.6	40	2.4
1,000 or more.....	97	1.3	90	2.5	79	4.5
Type of library						
Main without branches....	88	2.0	79	2.4	42	2.0
Main with branches.....	93	2.9	88	4.1	77	7.6
Branch.....	90	1.7	76	2.4	38	2.4
Children's librarian						
Have.....	96	1.1	91	1.9	72	3.3
Do not have.....	85	2.3	69	2.3	23	1.3
Hours open per week						
1-30.....	80	3.0	67	3.5	16	1.3
31-50.....	91	1.9	76	3.3	36	2.5
51-84.....	99	0.5	95	1.2	83	4.7
Percent of book budget used for children's books						
0-25.....	85	2.4	70	2.5	48	3.0
26-39.....	94	1.9	87	2.8	55	3.4
40-100.....	89	1.8	78	3.1	29	2.4
Percent of total circulation that is children's materials						
0-33.....	83	2.9	72	2.9	43	3.3
34-49.....	96	1.5	85	2.3	51	2.5
50-100.....	90	2.1	78	2.7	36	1.9

Table 8.--Selected standard errors, by library characteristic--Continued

Library characteristic	Mean number of group programs at the library for school-age children		Mean number of cooperative activities with schools		Mean number of cooperative activities with preschools or day care centers	
	Estimate	Standard error	Estimate	Standard error	Estimate	Standard error
Total.....	25	2.1	24	1.6	14	1.0
Library patrons per week						
Less than 200	11	1.6	11	2.3	5	0.9
200-999.....	28	4.5	18	3.0	10	1.1
1,000 or more.....	39	2.7	47	3.7	33	3.1
Type of library						
Main without branches....	23	3.6	18	2.3	11	1.1
Main with branches.....	44	5.4	60	12.6	38	6.9
Branch.....	25	2.4	24	2.6	14	1.6
Children's librarian						
Have.....	42	4.7	36	3.1	26	2.2
Do not have.....	13	1.8	15	2.8	6	0.8
Hours open per week						
1-30.....	12	1.9	11	2.3	4	0.9
31-50.....	25	3.3	23	3.1	12	1.5
51-84.....	42	5.7	40	3.7	30	2.6
Percent of book budget used for children's books						
0-25.....	20	1.3	26	3.1	18	1.9
26-39.....	32	5.5	23	2.9	13	1.4
40-100.....	24	3.8	23	2.7	13	1.6
Percent of total circulation that is children's materials						
0-33.....	21	1.5	20	2.6	14	1.6
34-49.....	31	5.4	25	2.5	16	1.6
50-100.....	25	3.7	26	3.5	14	2.0

Table 9.--Universe size and number of respondents to the survey of children's services in public libraries, by library characteristic: United States, spring 1989

Library characteristic	Universe	Respondents
Total ¹	14,174	773
Library patrons per week ²		
Less than 200.....	4,660	204
200-999.....	5,613	265
1,000 or more	3,814	299
Type of library		
Main without branches	7,421	320
Main with branches.....	1,126	169
Branch.....	5,627	284
Children's librarian ³		
Have	5,888	401
Do not have.....	8,169	366
Hours open per week		
1-30.....	5,029	216
31-50.....	4,946	231
51-84.....	4,199	326
Percent of book budget used for children's books ⁴		
0-25.....	4,255	289
26-39.....	4,487	236
40-100.....	5,052	227
Percent of total circulation that is children's materials ⁵		
0-33.....	4,532	279
34-49.....	4,388	248
50-100.....	5,232	243

¹The total sample size was 846. Twenty-two libraries did not respond and 51 libraries were found to be out of the scope of the study--those belonging to cooperative systems, State libraries, and those that were closed.

²The number of library patrons per week is based on data obtained from the survey. Slightly less than one percent of respondents did not respond to this item. Thus, totals in this category do not add to total universe or sample sizes.

³Based on libraries that have any paid public service librarians; 1 percent of the libraries do not have a paid public service librarian. Thus, totals in this category do not add to total universe or sample sizes.

⁴The percent of the book budget used for children's books is based on data obtained from the survey. Slightly less than 3 percent of respondents did not respond to this item. Thus, totals in this category do not add to total universe or sample sizes.

⁵The percent of the total circulation that is children's materials is based on data obtained from the survey. Less than one-half of one percent of respondents did not respond to this item. Thus, totals in this category do not add to total universe or sample sizes.

SURVEY ON LIBRARY SERVICES TO
CHILDREN IN PUBLIC LIBRARIES

This report is authorized by law (20 U.S.C. 1221e-1). While you are not required to respond, your cooperation is needed to make the results of this survey comprehensive, accurate, and timely.

This study is designed to obtain information about individual libraries rather than library systems. Please respond only for services that take place in your individual library BUILDING and the community it serves.

- 1a. Please estimate the number of persons (of all ages) who used your library in a TYPICAL WEEK during fall 1988. (Please use counts such as door counts rather than circulation information). _____ persons per week.
- 1b. About what percent of these users were children 14 years old and under (8th graders and below)? _____ %
2. About what percent of your library's total circulation is children's materials? _____ %
3. What percent of your library's total book budget for the last completed fiscal year was used for children's books? _____ %
4. How many hours was your library open to the public during a typical week in fall 1988? _____ hours per week.

- 5a. How many librarians (count persons, not full-time equivalents) who work directly with the public are employed at your library? (Include all paid staff who work as librarians, regardless of training. Do not include librarians whose ONLY job is technical or administrative. Do not include volunteers or support staff such as clerical workers, book shelvees, or desk attendants). _____ (IF ZERO, SKIP TO Q6a)
- 5b. How many of these librarians have Master of Library Science (MLS) degree _____; AT LEAST a 4-year college degree, but not an MLS _____; Other _____ (THESE NUMBERS SHOULD SUM TO Q5a)
- 5c. How many of these librarians have the title "Children's Librarian" or comparable title? _____ (IF ZERO, SKIP TO Q6a)
- 5d. How many of the Children's Librarians have Master of Library Science (MLS) degree _____; AT LEAST a 4-year college degree, but not an MLS _____; Other _____ (THESE NUMBERS SHOULD SUM TO Q5c)
- 6a. Is the assistance of a Children's Coordinator/Consultant available to your library? ☐ Yes; ☐ No. (IF NO, SKIP TO Q7)
- 6b. From what source(s) is the assistance of a Children's Coordinator/Consultant available? (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)
- ☐ Local system headquarters; ☐ Regional system headquarters; ☐ State library agencies;
☐ Other (Specify) _____

7. How does your library define children? (ANSWER ONLY ONE)

Age: _____ years old and under; OR Grade: _____ grade and below.

The remainder of this questionnaire is concerned with services to children 14 years old and under. Although your library may define children differently, please respond for all persons 14 years old and under (8th graders and below).

8. Indicate the availability/usage of the services below by children 14 years old and under (8th graders and below) during the last 12 months. Use the following scale: 0 = not available; 1 = no usage or almost no usage; 2 = light usage; 3 = moderate usage; 4 = heavy usage.
- a. Readers' advisory service (help with book selection, reference) _____ c. Summer reading programs _____
- b. Reading lists/booklets _____ d. Story hours _____
- e. Study space _____
9. For each service below, indicate by checking "yes" or "no" in Section A whether it is available at all for use or circulation at your library.
- For each service available at the library, indicate in Section B by checking the appropriate column whether it is: available to all children; available to only some children (e.g., those with parental consent on file, only certain age groups, etc.); or not available to any children.

Resource and services	A. Available at all for use or circulation?		B. Service is available to:		
	Yes	No	All children	Only some children	No children
a. Books in the adult collection					
b. Personal computers					
c. Computer software					
d. Videocassettes/films					
e. Audio recordings					
f. Interlibrary loan services					
g. Foreign language materials					

10. During the last 12 months, about how many times did your library offer group programs (e.g., story hours or booktalks) at the library for:
- a. Infants through 2-year-olds: _____; b. 3-year-olds through 5-year olds: _____; c. School-age children: _____.
11. During the last 12 months, about how many times did your library offer group programs at the library for parents or other child care-givers on topics related to children? _____.
12. During the last 12 months, about how many times did your library cooperate with schools and preschools/day care centers enrolling any children 14 years old and under (8th graders and below)? Examples of cooperation are visits to schools for booktalks, class visits to the library for tours or booktalks, and formal scheduled meetings with school staff. Do not count informal consultations with school staff. Count each trip to a school as one visit, regardless of the number of class visits or meetings that trip entailed.
- Cooperation with schools: _____; Cooperation with preschools/day care centers: _____.

Person completing this form: _____ Title: _____

Library: _____ State: _____ Phone: (____) _____

United States
Department of Education
Washington, D.C. 20208-5730

Official Business
Penalty for Private Use, \$300

Postage and Fees Paid
U.S. Department of Education
Permit No. G-17

THIRD CLASS

